



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## House Set to Begin Debate on President Bush's Education Plan

The House will begin debate today on H.R. 1, President Bush's *No Child Left Behind Act*. The President's plan holds schools accountable for improving student achievement, consolidates more than half of the federal K-12 education bureaucracy, provides unprecedented flexibility to local school districts, and gives new options to parents of children trapped in failing schools.

In addition, local school districts could get relief from nearly all federal education requirements in exchange for improving student achievement under a new "super local flex" amendment being offered by **Reps. Patrick Tiberi and Michael Castle**.

H.R. 1 provides unprecedented local flexibility by allowing local school districts to transfer up to 50 percent of the federal education dollars they receive among a host of ESEA programs -- **without permission from the state or the Education Secretary**.

The **Tiberi/Castle "super local flex" amendment** is premised on the charter school concept -- freedom from federal regulations in return for academic results. It allows 100 school districts in 50 states to enter into performance agreements with the Education Secretary that would provide near-total relief from all federal education rules and requirements. Under these agreements, participating school districts could consolidate programs and be relieved of the burden of restrictive federal rules and red tape.

### Message of the Day

**Local control and flexibility is one of the four pillars of President Bush's education plan.**

- ❑ *H.R. 1 gives states and local schools additional flexibility by consolidating programs and granting greater flexibility and decision-making authority to state and local officials.*
- ❑ *Paperwork mandates and regulations force states and local school districts to sacrifice student achievement to comply with bureaucracy.*
- ❑ *Giving state and local officials additional flexibility helps them tailor programs to more closely meet students' unique needs and priorities.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The **Tiberi/Castle** amendment allows 100 school districts to enter into performance agreements with the Education Secretary. No school district is required to participate.
- For three years, two districts per state may participate. After three years, if fewer than 100 agreements have been granted, more than two school districts may participate in each state, up to a total of 100 agreements.
- School districts lose their flexibility in five years if they do not meet their goals; in three years if they fail to make adequate yearly progress for three years in a row.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"We need to bring to federal education programs many of the strategies that have worked so well at the state and local levels: increased accountability for student performance, a focus on research-based practices, reduced bureaucracy and greater flexibility, and better information to empower parents."*

**Secretary of Education Rod Paige**